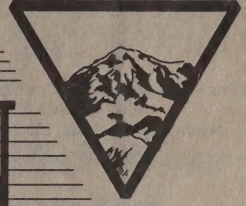


COMMUNITY VISION



The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center

121 East Pikes Peak Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Volume XV, No. 8

And What a Celebration It Was!

by Greg Varner

PrideFest 94, happening only last month, already seems like history. Maybe it's because so much has been happening this summer and there's so much already in the planning stages for the rest of the year. Whatever the reasons, as we all get on with the rest of our lives, it's nice to take a little time out and appreciate what happened here so recently.

What seemed like an effortless party was really a testimony to the hard work and planning on the parts of many people. The PPGLCC and Ground Zero worked with P-FLAG and La Gufa and other local groups. We had Dr. Mel White, José Zuniga, Kermit Cole, Michael Bussey, and the thousands of people who attended events throughout the week.

I think perhaps most noteworthy of the whole week, and the parade in particular, was the number of people from a wide geographic area who assembled in our town for a celebration. People who had never met before spent the afternoon together, as comfortable as if with their own families. That's quite an accomplishment, even in a small group, and an endorsement of this year's theme, We Are Family! Thanks to everyone who participated!

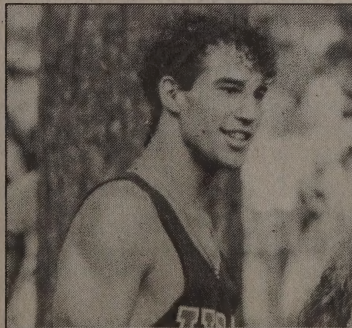
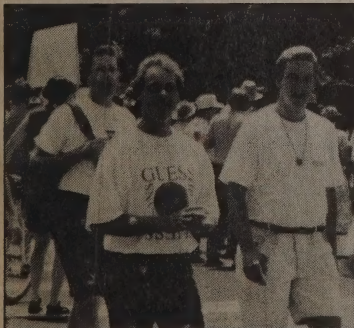
Annual Community Congress Becomes Celebration

by Marion Muhme

September is the month every year when the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center holds its annual Community Congress. The Community Congress has several purposes. This is the night when new board members are elected to the PPGLCC, and this is the night when a course is charted for the PPGLCC for the coming year, including ideas for new and continued programs which receive funding through the community center. The idea has been, and

See PRIDEFEST...page 4

See COMMUNITY CONGRESS...page 4



Community Vision is published on the first of each month under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

COMMUNITY VISION

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Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 471-4429

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The mission of the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center is:

to assist lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people in reaching their full potential as human beings.

to promote understanding, cooperation and a sense of community among lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people,

to promote, within society at large, an appreciation of the history, culture and contributions of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people,

to assist society at large in understanding the lives of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people,

to promote acceptance by society at large of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people.

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The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center has \$501(c)(3) status, and all contributions are tax deductible, charitable donations.

The PPGLCC Provides You Local Support

The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center uses the advertising revenue from *Community Vision* and money from annual dues (and generous donations!) to sponsor and finance the following activities:

- ♦ The annual Community Congress
- ♦ The annual Pride Week, including the Pride Parade
- ♦ The Anti-Violence Project
- ♦ The Helpline, answering over 1000 calls for information per year
- ♦ Referrals to 24 support groups and organizations in the Pikes Peak Area
- ♦ Publishing of *Community Vision* monthly
- ♦ Building and supporting our region's lesbian, gay and bisexual community

Community Center

Minutes of the July 7 Board Meeting

Board members present were president Martin Meier, vice president Margi Duncombe, secretary Donald Johnson, treasurer AE, Tami Gaylor, Alan Cook, Andy Wiegert, Maeerion Muhme and Mike Shaver. Guests were Jim Brooke and Ramona Lidmila.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved; the treasurer's report was approved; and the oral report on the Bingo account was approved.

Reports were heard from Tami Gaylor on the PrideFest weekend; Mike Shaver on the Strubco mailing scheduled for August; Ramona on the Anti-Violence Project; and Tami Gaylor on the PPGLCC working with Pueblo After 2 to staff the state fair booth in August.

Discussions were held on the rent increase at the PPGLCC office (21%, effective in late autumn); the annual Community Congress in September, which will include a dance; a replacement for Tami Gaylor as Helpline Coordinator; Jack Beal's request for additional volunteers in the Highway Cleanup Project; and a replacement for Marion Muhme as Volunteer Coordinator.

There were no items scheduled for voting action. Respectfully submitted,
Donald Johnson
Secretary, PPGLCC

Note: the minutes of the August 9 board meeting were unavailable at press time, and will be included in the next issue. ▼

PPGLCC Board of Directors Meeting:

Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm
PPGLCC Office
121 E. Pikes Peak



The Rocky Mountaineers Motorcycle Club of Colorado, Inc.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Colorado Springs PrideFest parade and festival earlier this month, and plan on returning again next year. This is becoming an annual event for the Rocky Mountaineers.

Sincerely,
Steve Heyl,
1994 Trail Boss

Note: The Rocky Mountaineers have volunteered to serve as color guard for next year's parade; they are the oldest gay and lesbian organization in Colorado.

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PRIDEFEST...from page 1

We thought you'd appreciate Jim Lundy's pictures more than words, so without more words, please enjoy this issue! ▼

PPGLCC News
**COMMUNITY CONGRESS...from page 1**

still is, to make these decisions with as much community input as possible; everyone is invited, member or not. Naturally, membership is encouraged at the door.

This year there will be the added bonus of a dance and party from 8:00 until midnight on Saturday night, September 10.

The party will be held at the Germania Club (710 East Harrison), where there is a full liquor license and dancing until midnight. The price of admission is free to paid members and \$5 per person for non-members.

A nice surprise this year is that your \$5 admission fee will automatically make you a member of the PPGLCC for one year.

Voting will occur at the door, and you will be free to spend the evening selling your ideas on the PPGLCC's future to everyone else. Interference with "official business" will be kept to a bare minimum all evening. You'll have a chance to bend the ears of the people who volunteer on the PPGLCC projects, from the Highway Cleanup project to the Helpline and this newsletter. You'll also find out about the groups that meet regularly in Colorado Springs, and perhaps bump into people with interests similar to yours.

Then there is the voting. Proposed new board members, on whom you will be asked to vote yes or no, are: Heather Berberet, Regina Dipadova, Sue Garcia, Vanessa Marquez, Mark K, Ramona L, Todd L, Betty Lynn Mahaffy, Mark Plummer, John Roberts, and Cab Shepard. These are all PPGLCC members in good standing (some for many years), all of whom have an interest in making their voices heard at the PPGLCC board meetings for the next 12 months.

And just for your information, current board members who will remain on the board for another year are: Alan Cook, Bruce Coriell, Vice President Margie Duncombe, Treasurer AE, Tami Gaylor, President Martin Meier, Nori Rost and Andy Wiegert.

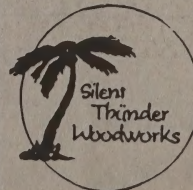
Mark your calendars for September 10! The Germania Clubhouse is located at 710 East Harrison Street. Harrison runs parallel to Fillmore a block or two south; the clubhouse is located on Harrison between El Paso and Prospect, and it's the only building on Harrison. You can't miss it, but if you do, the telephone there is 635-7197. ▼

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From the Editor

The Pride celebration was fantastic! For those of you who were there, thank you for contributing to the huge success! For those of you who missed it, it really was a great week! Not only were there "thousands" of people from Colorado Springs here to celebrate, but Denver was nicely represented, as were other parts of the state. I met people from Kansas and Nebraska. I'm sure other states were represented. Thanks to all of you for helping us celebrate!

I'm especially proud of the way everyone acted, start to finish. While there was, and continues to be, lots to be angry about, everyone managed to leave their feelings of hostility elsewhere for the week, and the time was spent as it should have been: in celebration of ourselves.

Special thanks go to Chris Baka and Tami Gaylor, organizers of the event. The work they did individually was evident throughout the week. They are also to be commended for the crew of volunteers (yes, they recruited!) who accepted the tons of delegation necessary to make everything happen. We'll never know how hard those people had to scramble at the last minute, but the end result seemed totally effortless.

And finally, thanks to all of you who, over the past year, have paid your dues, paid your advertising bills in this newsletter, volunteered to work the Bingo games and made donations of all kinds. It was your generosity that allowed the PPGLCC to pay for PrideFest 94.

The annual Community Congress is always held in September. It is here when non members can become members, and where members vote on candidates for the board of directors, and on PPGLCC-funded projects for the next year.

PPGLCC News

This year the elections will be combined with a party and dance on Saturday, September 10, at the Germania Club. Admission is \$5 for non-members, but this also buys you a year's membership. A good deal!

This edition of the newsletter is larger than usual for several reasons.

Immediately obvious was the lack of an August newsletter. Everyone was "too fagged out," mentally, physically and financially, to get this thing published by the first of August. We will be back on track for October's edition.

And we're sure you'd like to see the photos, mostly taken by Jim Lundy, of our Parade, and there are a few photos from Denver's parade the week before. All the photos will be compiled into a scrapbook, available to all in the PPGLCC office.

And finally we're including more political news than usual. Everyone was so good about keeping politics out of Pride Week, but now it's time to get back to work. What you'll see here will probably make you angry. Keeping in mind the first amendment to the US Constitution, there's nothing we can do to stop these people from saying these things about us. I just want you all to be aware of the words these people are using behind our backs, when these same people are so kind to our faces.

These people are true fanatics, and I don't believe there's anything we can do or say that will ever change their minds. But when you talk to more civilized people, as you must during the course of your existence in Colorado Springs, it's helpful to know the lies that are being spread about you, and what's being said about you by people who don't know you.

Enjoy the newsletter. And thanks again to each

See FROM THE EDITOR...page 6

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FROM THE EDITOR...from page 5
of you who helped out and
attended PrideFest 94. When
everyone does his or her own
small part, the result truly is
spectacular! ▼

Community



Abaton Books Remodels & Expands

Grand Opening September 10
by Greg Varner

Abaton Books in Old Colorado City has recently completed extensive remodeling, and will be celebrating with an all-day party on Saturday, September 10.

Co-owners Tamara Bartlett and Brenda Landesbury were ready to sell the business, but

decided instead to dig in their heels, keep the business, and make the 3-year-old business better.

The expansion makes Abaton Books the only exclusively lesbian and gay book store in Southern Colorado.

Immediately obvious are the new managers, who are men! Allen Varner-Allmond and Steve Ownbey, co-managers, are there at 10:00 AM Tuesday through Saturday. The store stays open until 5:00 on Saturday, 6:00 Tuesday-Thursday, and 7:00 on Fridays.

New rooms have been added for women's books and men's books, both of which now feature current best sellers; fiction and non-fiction; metaphysical, self help and coming out guides; and books that are just plain interesting. The men's section features titles such as *Harlan's Race*, *The Male Couples Guide*, and *Just as I Am*. There is also a case of "novelty items" for those days when you don't feel like reading.

The front room is now full of Abaton's "other items," which include a music and video section (also scheduled for expansion in the immediate future), their jewelry line (pride watches, pride pendants, crystals and more), a wall of T-shirts for men and women, and tons of decals and bumper stickers, one of which is perfect for you. And they still have their usual selection of newsletters and all occasion cards.

Regular hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10-6; Friday 10-7; and Saturday 10-5. The store is closed Sunday and Monday. Plan on spending a little time. The way everything is displayed will make you feel like taking your time so you can see it all. And please do! Colorado Springs should be pleased that Tamara, Brenda, Allen and Steve have gone to this extreme to provide the rest of us with a comprehensive lesbian and gay book store.

A good time to stop by will be Saturday, September 10, when Abaton will celebrate its remodeling

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with an all-day open house. In addition to refreshments and door prizes and a raffle, you will doubtless bump into people you already know -- or *should* know! They will be the readers and the thinkers of our community! ▼

Community

Author Rita Kissen's Visit

by Greg Varner

Rita Kissen's lesbian daughter was the inspiration for her book, *Voices from the Glass Closet*. Rita is a teacher in Maine; her daughter is a teacher in Michigan. Rita experienced second hand everything her daughter experienced first hand, from coming out and homophobia issues, to establishing an identity and fears about personal safety.

Because of the issues raised by Amendment 2, Rita came to Colorado Springs and Denver to interview teachers and administrators in these two cities, to find out from them their hopes and fears for the future, and their problems with the past.

Thanks to all of you (even you, Alan) who quickly rearranged your schedules to make time for Rita. Rita considers forced invisibility to be a form of violence against lesbian, gay and bisexual teachers, and hopes her book will help to make a difference in making schools safer for all teachers and students. Rita will let us know when the book is available, and John Coniff at the Chinook Bookshop, and Tamara, Brenda, Allen and Steve at Abaton Books, will get you all the copies you can pay for.

See RITA KISSEN...page 8



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Community

to you all for baring your souls for her mission. She couldn't stay for PrideFest, but said she'd "love some pictures or souvenirs...I'll be there in spirit, tho' not in drag."

Thank you, Rita. The pictures are in the mail! ▼

RITA KISSEN...from page 7

You should also know I received a note from Rita (on the Ruby Slippers card!). She was quite happy with the responses from our community, and grateful



United Court of the Rising Sun Empire

News of the Realm

by John Roberts

The United Court of Southern Colorado, Colorado Springs' oldest gay organization, is getting ready for the **Biggest Party of the Year: Coronation XIX** on October 15, at the City Auditorium. With the theme, "Baby Boomers/Coming of Age," this will be a most unusual and exciting night!

Lots of out of towners, from California, Utah, Texas, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Ohio, Minnesota and of course Denver, and *all* of our local friends and organizations are expected to be there.

In addition, the Court continues its many fun functions and exciting evenings out and about!

This is Campaign Season. Our first look at the

Membership Application

The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

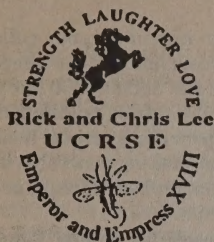
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I subscribe to the Mission Statement of the PPGLCC as printed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Signature(s): _____

Please send application and membership fee/contribution to PPGLCC, P. O. Box 607, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.



candidates for Empress and Emperor will be at the Kick Off Show, September 4, 7:00 PM at the Hide & Seek Complex.

During the following five weeks there will be many new and different activities planned and hosted by these candidates. Check your local watering holes, or friends in the court, for dates and times. The Court will also host several "hospitality" functions, including two shows on the 9th and 23rd of September at the Hide & Seek Complex.

If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful group of hard working, fun-loving nuts, please write: UCRSE, P.O. Box 6925, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. You may also call Rick (576-7505) or Chris (685-5509).

PLEASE: Mark October 15 on your calendars. It will be a rainbow colored event and a five star night! ▼

Letters

COLORADO SPRINGS PRIDE

I want to congratulate our community on a wonderful observation of Gay & Lesbian Pride. I attended the recent events in New York City, and our events were unsurpassed in vision and energy.

The rally at Focus on the Family was on such a high plane that Christian broadcasters should be coming to us for pointers. Mel White reminded us that Love is a powerful tool, that our positive energy is more powerful than the contempt of our enemies. He said that Focus on the Family is not our enemy, that they do good work, but they hurt many people because of their negative interpretations regarding

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The AVP can help you:

- (1) document the incident;
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- (3) help in filing police reports, obtaining restraining orders & providing other legal information.

Volunteer opportunities are available in crisis line staff, legal advocates, fundraising, advertising and as support group facilitators.

Call 471-4429 to receive more information.



Letters

homosexuality. He said that someday these people will be our friends.

Michael Bussee and his partner Tim Swink provided powerful testimony about the myths of sinfulness many of us were led to believe. The film, "One Nation Under God," had unbelievable clips of the darkness and shame of our past. It is amazing that this record of past ignorance has not already been destroyed. Michael and Tim saw the light as supposed "ex-gay" men and someday Focus will as well.

The Pride March was large and energetic. The crowd responded when Mel White asked for donations to take out a full page ad in the Gazette Telegraph to rebut statements by James Dobson.

We have a long way to go in this community and country, but we are strong, time is on our side, and we just had a great commemoration!

--Anonymous

TRANSSEXUAL COMMUNITY FED UP

This is an open letter I sent last week to the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association in Palo Alto, CA. I would like to share it with your readers.

The transsexual community has had a belly full of the controlling multi million dollar sex-change monopoly you have created. The Harry Benjamin Association's doctors "standard of care for transsexualism" uses an old mental illness term, "gender dysphoria," to represent the transsexual phenomenon in a poor light. Exaggerating the inci-

dence of suicide to legitimize your policy of mandatory psychiatric diagnosis and endless therapy sessions for the patient now costs \$50 to \$150 per visit. Your supporters have wrongfully frightened and misled medical doctors, providing mental health professionals with total decision making control over the lives of transsexual people, and with fresh, new Mercedes autos for their driveways.

Just as Colorado for Family Values twisted statistics on homosexual child molestation to raise money, you have twisted the statistics on transsexuals for the same reason. Dozens of dishonest gender clinics have now sprung up across the country using your "standard of care" as their Bible. In the transgendered community's world population (10-100 million) very few have ended up in mental institutions, committed suicide, changed their minds after surgery, or sued their doctors. In actuality, most transsexuals who cannot make it in life have originated from cult like gender clinics supporting your "standards of care." The transsexual people have been hoodwinked and bamboozled, all for the love of money!

Many medical doctors have become aware of

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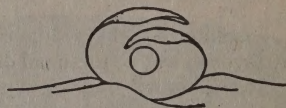
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Beyond 7 To You

your multi million dollar sex change monopoly, and have disallowed your oppressive "standards of care." Doctors now realize that the patient need only show an ongoing commitment to justify medical treatment and/or surgery. Transsexual freedom has begun to ring from the snow capped Rockies of Colorado. The transgender community begs for fairness, and extends its hand to you in friendship, inviting you to share in our dream of personal freedom for all people.

Sincerely,

Christy Wood

Book Reviews

Booktalk with John Coniff

Well! When last I wrote y'all, I was in Cleveland, nearly exhausted from the Big Fag Tour 94. I thought the BIG stuff was over (remember the Warhold Museum and the urine oxidized paintings and the giant, neon pink Last Supper?) but the REALLY big stuff was yet to come.

Patrick and Jim were wonderful hosts in ol' Cleveland. They took us to a lovely shopping strip, chock full of my favorite way to financial disaster: antique stores. There I found lovely souvenirs, but I

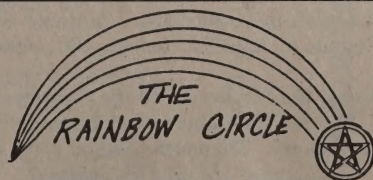
settled for a small tea caddy spoon to add to the History of Tea collection (remember: while there's tea, there's hope!). I also found a wonderful antiquarian bookshop that would have me driving back to Cleveland. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

So on Friday afternoon Wayne and I drove down to Akron, Wayne's hometown, and started the LITTLE Fag Tour (Wayne's only 5'7"). There, he pointed, is where I lived with Pat; there's the cruise park where I met Craig (Pat's husband) and never did him, much to his dismay. Do you get the picture? Well, I did, too. Here was my long distance boyfriend, whom I always envisioned without a family or a hometown (it was always so far away, like a story, or more appropriately, a fairy tale), leading me, as it were, into the belly of the beast.

We stayed with Ursula and Sheila. Ursula had once attended a lecture Wayne gave on homosexuality. His description of the Kinsey scale got her mind going. To make along story short, she divorced her husband, went back to school, met Sheila at the hospital where they (and Wayne) worked, and the rest is a lesbian romance novel. Sheila still works at the hospital and Ursula runs a geriatric boarding house in her Victorian mansion. They were wonderful women who taught me it's never too late to become successful at something new. Take a chance and be brave!

So these were the people who loved Wayne. W. (we'd better go anonymous for the next part) came from a troubled home and is no longer on speaking terms with either parent. His parents divorced and both remarried and reproduced. On Saturday night we had dinner with his half brother S., his wife and child. S. is some 10 years younger than W., my age, in fact. I was most nervous about this meeting: I had never dated anyone this long before and this was a milestone in the relationship. I was meeting for the first time people who were extremely important in Wayne's life. He was gaining a context and a fuller

See BOOKTALK...page 12



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first time people who were extremely important in Wayne's life. He was gaining a context and a fuller dimension along the whole trip (his friends had put us up the whole way) but the family thing is always the most unnerving. Anyway, we hit it off real well, and they encouraged me to come to the FAMILY REUNION the next day.

Have you ever been asked to attend someone else's family reunion? I didn't want to go either, but as I planned by escape I started to feel some obligation to go. We always spend those obligatory holidays with my family; this was my only chance to meet *his* relatives. The damn thing started at 11:00 am, but I managed to squeeze in a shopping trip to Cleveland and didn't show up until late afternoon. Then I met THEM: the aunt, grandfather, grandmother...and he introduced me as his boyfriend.

Well, coming out this way didn't really phase me, but W. later confessed that he had never felt so comfortable around his family. He said (and I just love repeating this) that it was me, and the person that I am, and our love for each other, that made this the most normal thing he had done with his family ever. His mother the Dragon Lady didn't speak to us, but who cares? She's just missing out on a couple of great queers.

Well, W. proposed marriage on the way home. But one successful vacation does not a marriage make. I might be willing to live in the same city, however. Anyone know of a great job for an enthusiastic young man in Denver? Let me know.

Next month: Back to Work, Back to Books. ▼

Crossing the Borders of Memory

Two Writers Embark on a Treacherous Journey to their Younger Selves

reviewed by Maureen Phillips

Red Azalea, by Anchee Min. Pantheon (distributed in Canada by Random House). 306 pages. \$29.00.

Crossing the Border: An Erotic Journey, by Kim Chernin. Fawcett Columbine (distributed in Canada by Random House). 328 pages. \$29.50.

Nothing like the 25-year anniversary of gay and lesbian liberation to make mainstream publishers sit up and take notice. An unprecedented number of lesbian and gay titles have been released this spring and early summer -- all scheduled to land in book

Book Reviews

stores by Jun 27. Is it cynical to wonder if this is merely a clever marketing ploy or an indication of a more durable trend? Both *Crossing the Border* and *Red Azalea* are personal stories that, at first glance,

should appeal to lesbian readers: each novel promises a story that includes the irresistible mix of politics and sex.

Kim Chernin's *Crossing the Border*, a memoir about her stay on a kibbutz in Israel in the early '70s, presents a small piece of social and political history with a distinct, personal focus. It's truly fascinating.

The most effective parts of the narrative reveal her youthful naiveté, her belief that a young Jewish American intellectual would be easily accepted and immediately embraced by the Israeli farm workers she had come to join. What she actually does find is a mixed reception -- from open hostility to reluctant acceptance.

Chernin renders the details of life on the kibbutz without romanticization. She recognizes that, while kibbutz life represented a departure for her from ordinary life, it was an inescapable and sometimes oppressive reality for the collective members. What Chernin does romanticize, however, are her sexual relationships -- one with a woman and one with a man.

The descriptions of these affairs are an exercise in erotic understatement, which makes them compel-

See BOOK REVIEWS...page 14



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Saturday	Show 11pm & 12am
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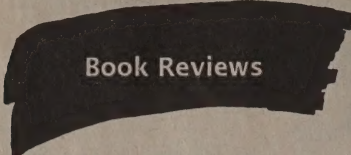
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Book Reviews

ling. Chernin taps into the power that memory holds over desire and recognizes the selective process that's involved. The erotic journey of the subtitle is a highly mental one, and it conveys the obsessive nature of this type of experience.

One of the features of this autobiography is Chernin's use of a detached narrative voice. She literally refers to her 30-year-old self as "Kim Chernin" and reserves the narrative "I" for herself 20 years later. The need for that level of detachment is clear -- who doesn't at times reflect on a younger version of herself as if that manifestation were a completely different person? However, the effect becomes irritating, even though the point is well made. Crossing the Border is an example of a writing exercise with too many of its self-conscious mechanisms fully exposed.

Anchee Min's *Red Azalea*, on the other hand, is a straightforward, unembellished story of growing up in China. The prose, as simple as it gets, tells the story of this young woman's life -- and it's as bitter as these things get. Also set in the '70s, the main point of this book is to provide a searing indictment of Communist China, particularly the role of Jiang Ching and the cultural revolution of the late '60s. This, of course, is told from the author's perspective as someone who left China for the United States in 1984.

There is nothing pretty about the world depicted by Min. Her descriptions of a childhood totally dominated by political ideology are chilling and she makes no attempt to place her experiences in a broader political context. This is both a strength and weakness since the reader has no choice but to respond with horror when reading about 10-year-olds dutifully learning the quotations of Chairman Mao and performing self-criticism as easily as a North American kid plays Nintendo.

Against this backdrop of repression, any form of sexual expression falls into the forbidden category. This turns the intense relationship that develops between Min and a woman (the commander of the company of farm workers to which Min is assigned) into far more than the schoolgirl crush it would be in a different context.

This relationship is arguably the strongest part of the book, at least from a lesbian perspective. As the

dynamics of obsession are played out in an almost melodramatic fashion, it is hard not to be drawn in. It is equally difficult not to feel some ambivalence about the voyeuristic nature of this involvement. The situation does represent a point of identification, since coming out often involves a sense of engaging in something forbidden. But that identification collapses when it becomes clear that the consequences of Min's involvement are far more severe for her than anything we could imagine for ourselves.

Marketing ploy or not, it is somehow appropriate for both of these books to appear this year since they serve as a reminder of the distances we have travelled. ▼

BETWEEN THE COVERS

by Jeffrey Canton

XTRA, Toronto

GayNet News Service

Men on Men 3: Best New Gay Fiction. Edited by George Stambolian. Dutton. \$29.95.

Men on Men 4: Best New Gay Fiction. Edited by

Mayotte Accounting
2160-A Vickers Drive
Colorado Springs
598-7676

Andrea Evans
Greg Varner

Small Businesses
Payroll

George Stambolian. Dutton.
\$29.99.

Paul Monette's novels are just what a 16-year-old boy needs.

I can't imagine the world before Stonewall. I was nine years old in 1969 -- all I cared about was Neil Armstrong and the landing on the moon. I kept a scrapbook. I don't remember being aware of my sexual orientation at that time in my life. But now I know that I'm the person I am because of Stonewall and, more importantly, I know I couldn't be who I am without it.

For me, being a gay person is closely tied to the books I read. Fiction helps me to define myself.

So. Gay fiction since Stonewall. I started making a list. Of course, it was mostly personal favourites: Alan Hollinghurst's *The Swimming Pool Library*; Edmund White's *A Boy's Own Story* and *The Beautiful Room is Empty*; Larry Duplechan's *Blackbird*; Paul Monette's *Afterlife* and *Halfway Home* (not to mention his memoirs, *Borrowed Time* and *Becoming A Man*); Dennis Cooper's *Safe*; Ethan Mordden's *I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore*, *Buddies* and *Everybody Loves You*; Andrew Holleran's *Dancer From the Dance*; John Fox's *The Boys On the Rock*;

Book Reviews

Peter McGehee's *Boys Like Us* and *Sweetheart*.

I realized that I'd left out a lot of writers whose work I admired, so I made another list: Christopher Bram, Lev Raphael,

Robert Gluck, George Whitmore, Christopher Coe, Felice Picano, Christopher Davis, Tom Spandauer, Adam Mars-Jones, Philip Gambone, James McCourt, Tim Barrus, David Leavitt, James Baldwin, Robert Ferro, Armistead Maupin, Tom Wakefield, David Rees.

When I sat down to write this column, however, I knew that I couldn't place a value on this author rather than that one. So I took the easy way out. If I had to name the most important post-Stonewall gay fictions, I would point to the four volumes of George Stambolian's *Men on Men: Best New Gay Fiction* published between 1986 and 1992. Most of the writers on my lists have appeared in one or another volume. Stambolian's introductions inspired me, and his selection of authors captured my imagination. He gave me courage and he made me proud of the literary heritage that gay writers were forging for the future.

"The history of any culture is a history of change, and of struggle," he writes in *Men on Men 2*. "Gay fiction is providing access to language for an ever more diverse community and producing writers whose superb command of language can no longer be ignored!"

But it's in the introduction to *Men on Men 3* that he says just what I wish I could say to you. "We are living in an age of liberation, but also in an age of fear. No sooner do stereotypes and false myths about homosexuality begin to disappear in one place than they reappear in a more virulent form somewhere else. Gay fiction can invent new languages and generate new meanings to undermine these lies so often built on wilful ignorance. It can challenge by its very existence the oppressive assumption that heterosexual experience is somehow natural, generic, outside of history. And it can question all decisions about what art is and what it is not, what can be represented and what cannot, what is private and what is not. These are ultimately moral questions, and as surprising as it may seem to some, gay fiction today is a moral art."

That passage made me think about my own history. What liberated me? I remember surreptitiously scanning the pages of Ian Young's collection of gay male poetry, *The Male Muse*, as I shelved books at

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REFRESHMENTS

λ

Forest Hill Library -- I was in Grade 10. And skimming through Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner* and *The Fancy Dancer* for the dirty bits. By the time I was at U of T, in the midst of my first big love affair, my totem was EM Forster's posthumously published romance, *Maurice*.

But the first gay novel that made a difference in my life was Paul Monette's *Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll*. I remember exactly where I bought it -- and where I hid it when I brought it home. I remember the sizzling homosex -- David gets butt-fucked on the beach by the hunky gardener and his ex-lover gets off watching the show -- I couldn't believe my luck! I was 16 and it was so hot. Until then I had to rely on letters in Penthouse which gave me access to an array of bisexual fantasies. This was the real thing! But I also liked the story Monette was telling and his lively sense of humour -- it's a novel filled with zest and romance. But what makes it special is that Monette does not make being gay an issue; it's just part of the story. No explanation or apologies -- thanks, we don't need 'em. Love wasn't all happy-ever-after, but it could be. Relationships are complicated, but that's the way it goes. *Taking Care of Mr. Carroll* didn't change my life, but it helped. It still does. ▼

Princess... You've Changed!

Reviewed by Jim Drew
OutNOW! - San Jose, California
GayNet News Service

What They Did to Princess Paragon, by Robert Rodi (Dutton, 1994), 281 pp, \$19.95.

Wonder Woman came to "man's world" from Paradise Island, a place that has been only women for thousands of years. Obviously, she must be a lesbian, right? That is part of the premise of *What They Did to Princess Paragon*, the latest novel by Robert Rodi.

In this novel, Rodi satirizes the American comic book industry -- estimated at over \$500 million in sales last year -- and in particular the way the publisher of Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman revamped and recreated those characters during the past decade.

Really, though, *What They Did to Princess Paragon* is a novel about power. Not the super-strength and bullet-bouncing powers of a comic book superhero, nor the power wielded by a politician or

Book Reviews

the Pope, but the power that most severely strikes the common man: the power of popular culture and those who create and manipulate it. The power of the star over the fan.

Bang Comics, desperate to increase sales, gives full creative power on their venerable superheroine Princess Paragon (read: Wonder Woman) over to fan-favorite comic book creator Brian Parrish. Parrish himself wants the opportunity to move his career into a new realm, escaping the younger creators who are trading on his style and reputation. Being a semi-closeted gay man, Parrish intends to bring Princess Paragon out of the closet as a lesbian. The controversy will attract new readers, he reasons, while the old fans will keep buying out of momentum. And every gay man and lesbian in the country will start buying comics. Or so the theory goes, anyway.

The word "fan" comes from the word "fanatic," and for good reason. While most people just want to read the latest adventure of Princess Paragon, Jerome T. Kornacker goes further. He has a nearly full collection of her comics, her poster is on his wall, and so forth; to some degree, he even feels that he loves her. When he hears that she is going to become a dyke, he is repulsed. Reasoning that if he could just talk to the people at Bang Comics, he could convince them to mend their ways -- a popular delusion among intense fans of comics, science fiction, tennis, and so on -- Jerome goes to a comic book convention.

At the convention, Jerome and Parrish meet and, through a series of events, Parrish ends up going to Jerome's home to work in seclusion on the next Princess Paragon script. Parrish thinks he is taking advantage of Jerome's fannish awe, but Jerome plans to submit a script of his own -- one which will be so good that Bang Comics will discard the lesbian storyline in favor of Jerome's (see above commentary on fan delusions).

In the process, Jerome comes to understand much more about Parrish's life as both a fan-favorite comic book creator and as a gay man. Meanwhile, Parrish learns his own lessons about what fans are really like. Both men considered Parrish to somehow be intrinsically better than a fan like Jerome; both were wrong, of course.

People familiar with comic books and the comic book industry will revel in the first half of *What They Did to Princess Paragon*, identifying all the parodied people and even recognizing key lines of comic book

Book Reviews

dia-

logue. On the other hand, these same people may find the representation of Jerome to be offensive and belittling toward comic book fans, presenting many of the worst facets, as it does. People not as familiar with comic books are apt to find the first half of the novel somewhat slow simply because many of the "in" jokes will obviously be references to which they cannot connect; the second half of the novel, though, with its interaction between the fan and the fan-favorite, will be more appealing.

There is really nothing deep in Rodi's novel. But there is really nothing deep in the subject matter, or in most pop culture. ▼

Movie Reviews

Kika Kicks up controversy:

Pedro Almodòvar's latest film leaves diehard fans in the cold

Reviewed by Matthew Hays

XTRA, Toronto

GayNet News Service

I will never forget the first time I saw a Pedro Almodòvar film: the sets and costumes were outrageous; the characters made inexplicable actions seem perfectly normal and their was enough cleavage to make even Dolly Parton feel inadequate.

In Almodòvar's universe, kitsch is the operative word. This queer Spanish director's work has been such a revelation to me. I have followed his career highlights closely: a metaphoric play, *Matador* ('85); an hilarious take on the Latino soap opera in *Law of Desire* ('86); his biggest box-office success, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* ('87); and his highly controversial foray into gender politics, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* ('89).

Every time I watch an Almodòvar flick, I am struck by the feeling that I would simply never tire of his lava lamps and loud colours, unexplained plot twists, *deus ex machina* and his brazen hussies and macho thugs.

Sadly, I must say, *Kika* is a bit of a heartbreak for members of the Almodòvar Fan Club. The plot involves the trials and tribulations of Kika, a make-up artist who desperately tries to choose between her two lovers, Ramon and his stepfather, Nicholas.

Kika has all of her cat-fights laid out for her, this time in the guise of a back-stabbing best friend who has an affair with Nicholas, and Ramon's jealous ex-lover, the host of a trash-TV show called *Today's Worst*.

The plot twists heat up when Kika's lesbian maid's mentally deranged, ex-porn star brother escapes from prison, arriving at Kika's home looking for sex and money. He finds the money, but he also manages to enter the sleeping Kika's bedroom to rape her.

It has to be one of the most bizarre rape scenes caught on celluloid. And as with *Tie Me Up! Tie Me*



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caught on celluloid. And as with Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!, many may find Almod var's representation of rape to be, at best, questionable.

Kika is held at knifepoint while the escaped convict tries to top his most-orgasms-per-fuck (four) record. The police -- more like the Latino Keystone Cops -- finally enter to save Kika. Clearly, the scene is meant to have comic overtones, yet, afterwards, we are shown the pain Kika has suffered at the hands of her tormentor.

Almod var appears to want to have it both ways; a rape scene that is at once witty but also empathetic with the victim. In interviews, Almod var admits that he laments the dearth of good roles for women in film and that he aspires to be a women's director. However, after the rape scene, many women in the audience may ultimately doubt his good intentions.

Amidst Almod var's characteristic mixture of melodrama and farce is the director's commentary on the voyeuristic nature of TV and cinema itself. Most of the films sexual acts are captured on video by the Gaultier-clad host of the tabloid-TV show -- a bizarre cross between Robocop and Batgirl -- who zips around town on a motorbike with a videocamera attached to her head. Enhancing this voyeur theme are abundant references to earlier films that used a similar device, such as Michael Powell's Peeping Tom and Hitchcock's Psycho.

Almod var strains to make connections between

Movie Reviews

the characters on screen and his audience, who are essentially also voyeurs, he leaves the pleasure-principal -- such a vital and glorious element of his work -- behind. And while Kika supplies the academic crowd with fodder

for years of weighty analysis, it will leave most filmgoers -- even diehard Almod var fans -- cold. ▼

Life's questions

"Go Fish" delivers no-apologies look at modern lesbian life

*Reviewed by Christine Schmidt
OutNOW! - San Jose, California
GayNet News Service*

Welcome to another low-budget, lesbian-written-and-directed flick for -- you guessed it -- lesbians. A bit grainy in all aspects, Go Fish does, however, deal 90 minutes of entertainment to viewers.

Filmed in Chicago, "Go Fish" is affectionately complex as it delves into relationships, reality, and the nervous tension surrounding both. More simple-minded productions would have Max (played by co-producer and co-writer Guinevere Turner) and Ely (V.S. Brodie) play cat-and-mouse until both reliaze the inevitability of their situation and fall in love. But "Go Fish" ascends beyond basic girl-meets-girl plots, entering intricate realms of community, intimacy phobias, and feminist dogma as it seeks to bring together two unlikely candidates for love.

Without the assistance of roommates and friends, Max and Ely might never meet. Max, who finds Ely most unattractive, has an eye-piercing vision of the right woman. Ely, on the other hand, has acquired a

See MOVIE REVIEWS...page 20



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Movie Reviews

living arrangement which excuses her from entering intimate relationships of any kind.

But beyond initial introductions provided by Max's roommate Kia (T. Wendy McMillan), the role of community and friends is pleasingly subtle to Max and Ely's relationship. These friends' frequent interaction among themselves and the audience is unabashedly overt and adds an engaging quality to the production. With no apologies, this film provides unpolitically correct scenes, yet boasts a politically correct cast in ethnic, orientation, and butch/femme arenas. Refreshing with realness, PC critics will find alcohol and cheap sex, and lesbian feminists can complain about the heterosexual sex scene. Take a cold shower, and let your sisters enjoy this creative film.

"Go Fish" also enlists subthemes of all kinds. Generally remaining unresolved, and with unclear purpose, they provide insights into the sub-characters' environments, but little about the characters. They add length to the film and some interesting philosophical questions, but their significance is elusive. Tremendous credit must be given to the film's camera style, which livens what might otherwise be a lagging production. Abstract inserts convey real feeling, and unique camera shots give this film accent. The sex scenes are tasteful and artistic, although the eroticism is a bit light.

Lesbian couples and singles will both find "Go Fish" entertaining. Its appeal across lines to the

straight and gay men's community is low. Both the film's humor and ghettoized focus make the film one which appeals solely to the lesbian community. But there it will be right at home. ▼

Real Estate

Make Selling Your Home Easier On Yourself

by Tom Halfast

Selling one's home is often emotionally charged. Fear of the unknown, anxiety about the future and the multitude of hassles associated with moving household goods and people (not to mention the possibility of a job change or two) all create significant stress for the participants. In fact, a number of studies have found relocation to be one of the top three sources of stress in a lifetime!

Given all this, it seems obvious few would invite additional problems into the process. Yet that is frequently what happens when the maintenance of a property is ignored or neglected prior to putting up a for sale sign. As real estate purchasers become increasingly savvy and disclosure laws become more demanding, the import of the real estate appraisal has also increased. In fact, it may be argued the estimate of value is the key component of a successful sale, particularly in most sales of residential property as a new loan is the mechanism for the purchase.

Though there are many loan programs available today the majority of new mortgage loans fall into

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three classes: FHA, VA and conventional. Of these, the government insured or guaranteed loans have the strictest appraisal guidelines. Remember the purpose of the appraisal is to determine value and condition and, though it also protects the purchaser, is primarily a safeguard for the government agency or lender which may have to take the property back in the event of default (foreclosure).

With this in mind a review of some of the various regulations as they pertain to appraisals should be helpful. There exist three fundamental elements of any real property appraisal: (1) resale activity in the immediate vicinity of the subject; (2) general condition and determination of the remaining or useful life of the improvements; and (3) health and safety regulations and building codes. Of these, the latter frequently causes unpleasant surprises, particularly in older homes.

To get a feel for the actual on-site appraisal inspection let's approach a home as an appraiser or purchaser might.

First impressions are lasting! Curb appeal is the term often used by real estate professionals to describe the overall feel of the home, and it means just that -- the attractiveness of the home from the street. Lawn and shrubs should be neat and trimmed, flower beds or other landscaping should be free of weeds, and

walkways should be in good repair and level. (On the day of the inspection it's a good idea to pick up toys, yard tools, garden hoses and ladders which may create tripping hazards.)

After receiving the "once over" a more detailed inspection of the exterior condition will begin. This phase includes taking measurements and considering

the remaining life of the roof, condition of siding materials and surface treatments, including windows, paint and trim paint. In many areas conservation measures are also noted.

Once inside, flooring materials and condition, closet adequacy, cabinets

and kitchen appliances, and bathroom fixtures will be checked. A look at the systems (electric, water/sewer, gas and heating/cooling) could trigger a mandatory certification by a licensed tradesperson if anything appears odd or not to building code.

Finally, many appraisers will peek in the attic to look for insulation and ventilation, and will brush aside the cobwebs to enter the basement or crawl space for a look at the foundation and flooring support. (Yes, even those Westside basements!) If access to the attic is not available or blocked, be prepared to install or clear an opening. Likewise, if adequate insulation or ventilation is not found, be prepared to

See TOM HALFAST...page 22



REAL ESTATE NEWS AND COMMENT

by tom halfast, gri
realtor



The Community Center is always in need of volunteers. It's volunteers, some working full time, others working only a couple of hours a month, who help us accomplish goals that benefit all of us.

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Volunteers are needed for the Helpline, for the position of Helpline Coordinator, and for an advertising and accounting coordinator for the newsletter.

TOM HALFAST...from page 21

correct the deficiency.

Once the actual property visit is over the written report will take 1-3 weeks to prepare and get to the lender. Three or more similar properties which have recently sold will be selected as comparable to the subject in order to set the relative value. If the property is a rental or income property the rents will also be considered under the income approach. This often serves as a check for the market (recent sales and listings) approach.

Remembering the goal of most sellers is to sell at the highest possible price, in the shortest time, with the least hassle. One should be prepared to evaluate and act upon deficiencies before the appraisal. As a matter of course, most of these items should be corrected even before marketing begins. After all, the

Real Estate

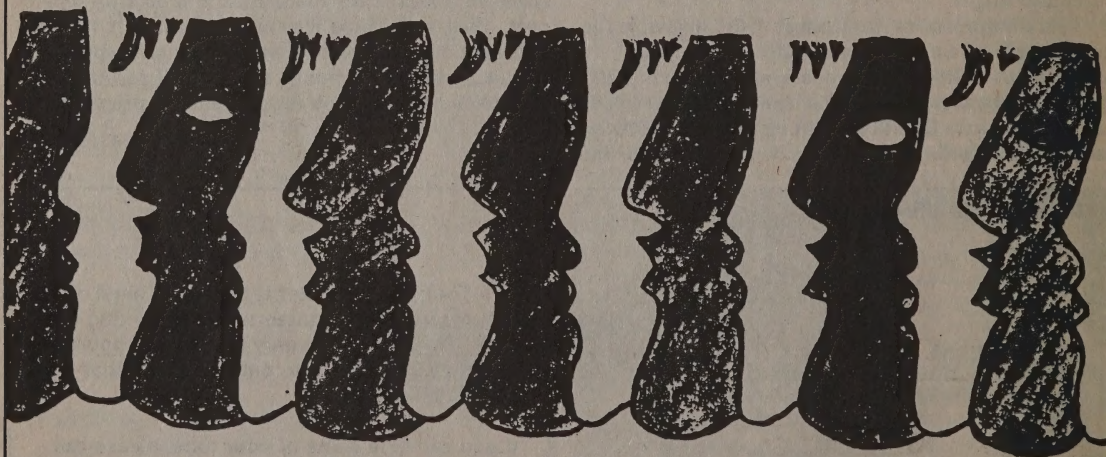
prospective home owners are probably more picky than will be the appraiser.

Below are some of the more routine "gotchas" which should be looked at before putting the home

up for sale:

- Settlement/upheaval of walkways, stairs, patios and driveways.
- Loose or missing handrails and planks on steps, porches, decks and interior staircases.
- Cracked or missing window panes..
- Missing or misaligned gutters, downspouts and/or splashblocks.
- Peeling paint or bare wood on home and other buildings, including soffits, eaves, trim, doors and flooring (this may be particularly problematic for homes built prior to 1978 because

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Real Estate

of a possible lead based paint hazard).

- Torn or worn floor coverings, i.e. carpet and linoleum.
- Inadequate ventilation in attics and crawl spaces.
- Inadequate insulation.
- Debris or trash in the yard or under the house.
- Other obvious health or safety concerns (low wires, tripping hazards).

Expect to pay between \$3-400 for the appraisal of a single family home, and more if it is a multi-family dwelling. Although the cost is certainly a negotiable item between buyer and seller, in practice the purchaser pays for the appraisal as it is a condition of the loan. Also, if the appraiser notes a deficiency not only will the repair have to be made, but a reinspection fee of \$50 will be charged prior to closing.

In closing, remember that the appraisal is not the final word. If your Realtor has done his/her homework, then by all means challenge the appraisal. Prepare a list of recently sold homes in your area which support the value of the subject. By supplying additional comparables, adjustments will often be made. In fact, many times the loan underwriter has the authority to correct value errors. If that fails, then send the appraisal up the ladder to a supervisor, or VA/FHA field office.

If, however, you have a laundry list of conditions, don't bother challenging them. Just correct the

problems and get to closing.

Tom Halfast, GRI, is a Broker Associate with Century 21 Cornerstone Real Estate Company, Inc., located at 1024 West Colorado Avenue in Old Colorado City. He provides this column as a monthly service to the community, and may be reached at 632-8551, or in Manitou at 685-0621. ▼



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*The PPGLCC Application
is on page 8, as usual*

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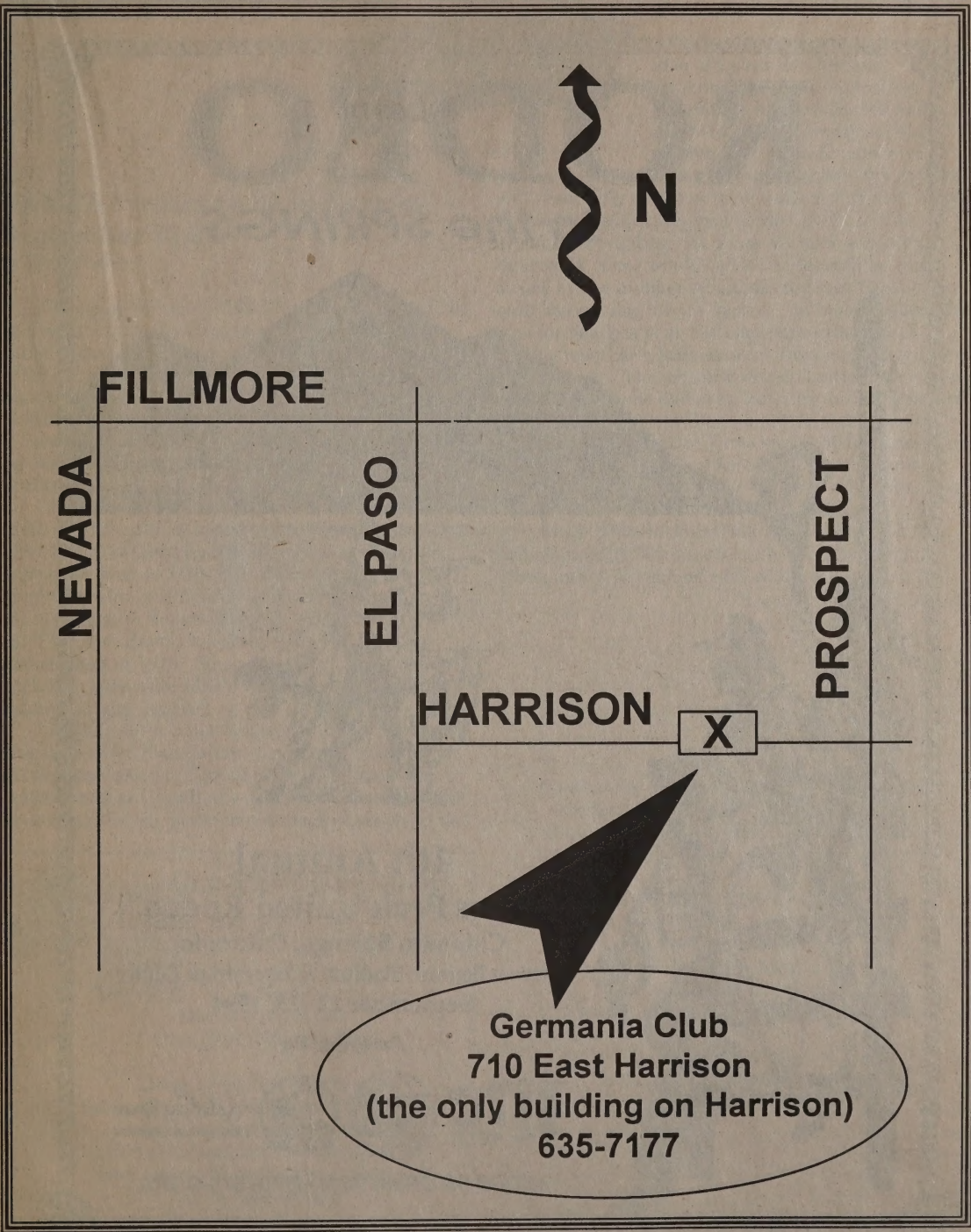
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S-CAP News

NAMES Project to be in Greeley September 21-24

by Greg Varner

784 panels of the NAMES Memorial Quilt will be on display in Greeley September 21-24 as part of a public education program being presented by the AIDS Public Education League of Greeley. Sponsoring organizations for the 4 day event include the City of Greeley, Cowboy's Saloon, the Ft. Collins Chapter of Straight But Not Narrow, LaserHead Graphics and the Women's Resource Center of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

The NAMES Project was the brainchild of Cleve Jones in 1985. Jones moved to San Francisco in the early 1970s and became friends with San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, one of the nation's first openly gay elected officials. Jones worked as a student intern with Supervisor Milk while studying at San Francisco State University. Harvey Milk was assassinated in 1978. Since that time Cleve Jones has worked to keep alive Milk's vision of equal rights for lesbian and gay people.

In 1982 Cleve Jones helped create the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, one of the nation's first AIDS organizations. I got to meet Cleve Jones last October, and as I recall, it was a public demonstration (protesting the city government's lack of action on the

AIDS epidemic) that put the rough idea of a quilt into his head. The demonstration was made up of people who had lost friends and lovers to AIDS. The people had written their friends' names on

posters, and the posters were spread over the ground and eventually on the outside walls of a city buildings, thanks to ladders they had hidden in the bushes around the building. As Jones sat back admiring their work (some would call it vandalism), he was struck by the number of names, and how like a giant quilt the evening's work looked. He thought about the idea for nearly a year and came upon the idea of piecing together a little artwork from anyone wanting to contribute. The artwork would mention the names of the friends who had been lost, just as the posters of a year earlier. When Cleve Jones' friend, Marvin Feldman, died of AIDS, Jones made the first panel in 1985. It didn't take long for others to contribute panels; the first display ever was in Washington, DC, in 1987, and included over 2,000 panels.

Since 1985 the NAMES Project has grown to include over 27,000 panels, each 3 feet by 6 feet. When totally assembled with walkways for visitors,

See NAMES PROJECT...page 28

Gay & Lesbian Helpline

471-4GAY

471-4429

New Hours:

Mon & Fri, 2-9 PM

Tue, Wed, Thu, 2-6 PM

Leave a message after hours
information concerning upcoming events
referral to local support groups
referral to local political organizations
hate crime and harassment reporting
crisis intervention

Community Vision is sent monthly to members of the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center. It is also distributed free of charge at the following locations:

Abaton Books
Abrams Jewelry Design
The Hide & Seek Complex
The Lotus Eater
The Penthouse Lounge
Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center
Poor Richard's
Southern Colorado AIDS Project
True Colors

NAMES PROJECT...from page 27

the Memorial Quilt covers 18 acres (roughly 16 football fields). Panels have been contributed from all over the world, plus all 50 states and Puerto Rico. They are made of everything imaginable; the only requirements are the standard size (3X6 feet), a 1-2 page letter about the person you've remembered with the quilt, and a little information about yourself.

The mission of the NAMES Project Foundation is to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic by showing the humanity behind the statistics through the Memorial Quilt. To achieve this, the organization has established the following goals: (1) to increase public awareness of the AIDS epidemic and HIV prevention; (2) to offer a creative form of expression for all whose lives have been affected by HIV and

S-CAP News

AIDS, and to preserve the memory of those who have died as a result of the disease; and (3) to encourage support and the raising of funds for people living with HIV and AIDS, and for their loved ones.

To date the Memorial Quilt, or portions of it, have been displayed over 1,000 times. Donations solicited at the displays have reached \$1.5 million, which has been distributed to AIDS service organizations around the country.

If you can take the time to drive to Greeley (Saturday, September 24 would be the best day; it's open to the public all day free of charge), it's a trip you won't soon forget, and an opportunity you won't have again in the near future. I guarantee you'll be overwhelmed, even this is a display of only 784 of the 27,000 panels. It will give your life a new perspective. ▼

NAMES

PROJECT
AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

We Went To Australia,
Amsterdam, Helsinki,
Botswana, Boston,
LA, Kuala Lumpur,
Singapore, Suriname,
And Provincetown
And Brought
You Back This T-Shirt

Each year, the AIDS Memorial Quilt travels the globe bringing a message of remembrance and hope to millions of visitors. You can help the Quilt continue this journey by wearing one of these beautiful, full color T-Shirts.

Each design is printed on 100% heavy weight cotton. T-Shirts are available in Medium, Large, and XLarge for \$15 and XXLarge for \$20 (plus \$5 S&H). Help make a difference.

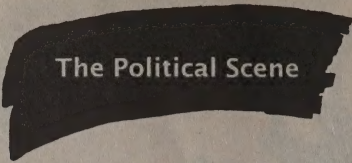
1(800)USA-NAME



Southern Colorado AIDS Project

Pueblo
P.O. Box 3277 / 81005
(719) 561-2616

Colorado Springs
P.O. Box 311 / 80901
(719) 578-9092



The Political Scene



Colorado for Family Values

CFV on the Rampage Again

by Greg Varner

Because you should know what's being said about you, following is a copy of the letter Colorado for Family Values sent out in early August. Naturally they're asking for money, but the part that should interest you is why. Will Perkins, the "used car salesman" who gives used car salesmen a bad rap, is telling lies again. About us.

I hope you're all around when the citizens of the United States get fed up with propaganda such as this, see it for the bigotry it is, and send these people to a place they so richly deserve: out of business, out of office, and straight to hell.

Forget the media's trumped-up funerals for Amendment 2, for the issue of so-called "gay-rights," or for Colorado for Family Values. The truth is, some very real threats are working right now against your freedoms of belief, speech and association. You need to know.

Dear Concerned Coloradan,

For a few minutes at least, please set aside any preconceived notions you may have about the state of Amendment 2 and "gay-rights" in Colorado.

The fact is, if most people knew the truth about this issue, I probably wouldn't be writing you today. I wouldn't need to.

If the truth were being told, I wouldn't need to explain to anyone how Colorado for Family Values stands at the forefront of one of our nation's pivotal battles.

There'd be no question that we're fighting — today more than ever — for your rights. For all of our rights.

"Fighting for our rights?" you might ask. "But I read in all the papers you were trying to take away the rights of gays and lesbians!"

Wrong. That's one of the worst in a long series of falsehoods told about Colorado for Family Values and Amendment 2 over the last several years.

Amendment 2 only prevents special-rights — the hard-earned legal remedies given only to oppressed minorities — from being extended to people's sexual behavior. That's it.

The truth is, we're fighting for your right to disagree with militant homosexuality. Your right to hold and to practice beliefs considered "politically-incorrect" by the media elite. The right to hold traditional values in an age when those values are under attack from radical lobby groups.

That's why today, I'm writing to share with you some facts you may not have heard — and to ask for your help.

Maybe you're unsure whether there really is a threat. Maybe you've believed media reports that the lawsuit against Amendment 2 has made "gay-rights" a

The Political Scene

dead issue in our State. Then consider these recent events:

- Leaders of the Colorado PTA — shutting out a mountain of public opposition — recently sought to pass a pro-homosexual resolution essentially inviting militant groups like ACT-UP and Queer Nation into our schools to “educate” our children about the merits of homosexuality. Only a major outcry from parents and a well-organized effort at the state convention prevented the resolution’s passage.

- An administrator in the Denver Public Schools recently vowed to implement New York’s Rainbow Curriculum throughout Denver schools “... as soon as [Colorado for Family Values] pipes down.”

If you recall the controversy when New York parents rebelled against its implementation, the Rainbow Curriculum involves “educating” children about the goodness of the homosexual lifestyle and giving them disgustingly detailed instructions in its sexual practices, as well as so-called “safe sex” — beginning in the first grade.

- The homosexual lobby is asking the government to brand anyone who disagrees with homosexuality — anyone labeled “homophobic” — as officially mentally ill!

That’s right. An American Psychiatric Association committee chairman (and homosexual activist) has called “homophobia” in the *New York Times* “... a psychological abnormality that interferes with the judgement and reliability of those afflicted.” President Clinton’s Health and Human Services Secretary, the infamous Donna Shalala, has met with activists seeking to brand “homophobia” a mental illness, and pledged her full support.

- Militant homosexual activists are preaching “zero-tolerance” in Colorado for those who disagree with them. The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado vowed in a December 14 press release immediately following Bayless’ decision:

“We urge varied and aggressive actions to eradicate the ignorance and bigotry which produced Amendment 2, and we issue a call for opponents of Amendment 2 to flood the state in our continuing battle against heterosexism, homophobia and discrimination...”
[Emphasis added]

If you disagree with these extremists, they want your views “eradicated!” We’ve been documenting statements like this for nearly three years now. Anyone who actively disapproves of homosexuality is to be branded a “homophobe” or a “heterosexist,” then potentially prosecuted by law.

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What's fair, democratic or American about that?

- Even as you read this, brand new activist groups like "Gay and Lesbian Americans" vow to push through more pro-homosexual city ordinances like the five here in Colorado — telling those who disapprove of homosexuality they have no right to run their businesses, property or families according to their most deeply held values.

Under the two most recent ordinances
— in Crested Butte and Telluride — you can be thrown in jail
for up to one year for following your conscience.

And they have the gall to accuse those who resist their attacks, of "hatred and bigotry," of infringing on their civil rights!

It's frightening. And that's why Colorado for Family Values feels so strongly about protecting our freedoms of belief, speech and association.

Will you stand with us to protect these precious liberties?

We need your financial and moral support. Will you take a few minutes to write out a check with your donation today?

Here's what Colorado for Family Values is doing
to oppose militant homosexual aggression right now:

- We're aggressively educating Colorado citizens about the push for special homosexual rights, what it means to our State and nation. We're doing that through seminars, brochures, newspapers and more.
- We're expanding our grass-roots network to oppose all efforts in Colorado to impose homosexual special rights. This effort includes trained area leaders, mobilization plans, and local-official awareness.
- We're building the most complete database of its kind to document the militant homosexual agenda — then provide this information to citizens and groups fighting this battle in Colorado and throughout the nation.
- We're sharing the truth about Amendment 2 with Coloradans who aren't getting it from the media.
- Most of all, we're holding Governor Romer's "feet to the fire" regarding his duty to see Amendment 2's defense all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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If you value this effective, coordinated effort against homosexual extremism, will you join with us and help protect what's best in our society?

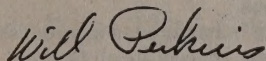
Please take a minute to send your contribution of \$20, \$50, \$100 — or whatever you can — joining tens of thousands of Coloradans opposing this unfair agenda. Financial support is our way of measuring whether this organization is vital and necessary. As in the past, Colorado for Family Values will turn your gift into effective, efficient action to withstand the forced affirmation of homosexuality.

Colorado for Family Values operates efficiently, on the tightest of operating budgets, with a small staff and the help of generous volunteers. (Our opponents outspent us two-to-one in their losing campaign.)

Remember that no matter how strongly we oppose their agenda, Colorado for Family Values has never advocated the least mistreatment of homosexuals themselves. We believe that existing criminal laws protecting the safety of all citizens should be rigorously enforced. Yet as Judge Bayless recently ruled, homosexuals do not qualify for protected class status. We will do all we can to make sure this ruling is confirmed at the highest court levels.

Remember also that under Amendment 2, homosexuals can promote any agenda they wish, except they have to do it as an affluent, special interest group — not a protected minority. Anyone opposing the militant homosexual agenda — in the schools, for example — could make their voice heard in the free marketplace of ideas. That's the American Way! Will you help us protect these freedoms by sending a contribution today?

Sincerely,



Will Perkins
Executive Board Chairman
Colorado for Family Values

P.S. Attacks in the courts are only part of Colorado's militant homosexual onslaught against your rights. Please enclose your most generous gift possible to ensure that their agenda does not engulf our state.

Purpose of Manitou Springs' Rainbow Vision Plan

Kevin Tebedo's Paranoia
by Greg Varner

Manitou Springs, our neighbors to the west, have attempted to do a little city planning. The Rainbow Vision Plan was a blueprint for the future regarding street improvements. Their choice of words on a preliminary document alarmed Kevin Tebedo to the point he wrote the following letter, which we are reprinting in its entirety.

Kevin Tebedo, as you know, is the executive director of Colorado for Family Values. I believe his profession prior to working for CFV was operating a window cleaning company, and partner or associate of some type in Dovetail Ministries, a religious group that helps gay people turn straight. In other words, his chief qualification for being executive director of CFV was that he's a gay basher. Kevin's mother is state Senator Mary Anne Tebedo. We're sure she's proud!

Kevin's paranoia was so extreme it even caught the attention of at least one of the local television studios and was featured on that evening's news broadcast. This is the same Kevin Tebedo who was featured on the cover of the Colorado Springs *Independent*, with his quote on gay issues in Colorado: "Ultimately it's going to boil down to whose voices are the loudest."

This, then, from one of the top gay bashers in the state (all grammatical and typographical errors are part of the original letter):

Mr. Larry Manning
Planning Department
606 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Dear Larry:

I recently received a copy of the "Rainbow Vision Plan," along with statements of concern about its pragmatic results, from some of Colorado for Family Values' supporters living in Manitou Springs. After reading the purpose statement, I see some reason for their concerns. Please allow me to articulate them for your information.

First, the word "rainbow" is a code word for the homosexual lobby and becoming recognized around

the nation as a symbol for homosexuality. One of the logos for the homosexual lobby is a flag depicting the many colors of the rainbow. As a matter of fact, this is what the homosexual lobby fully intended to do: use the rainbow specifically for their purposes. The "Rainbow Curriculum" in New York city was a radically pro-homosexual education plan that eventually cost a top level school official his job. The "Rainbow Coalition" is a national pro-homosexual group. Symbols and words have specific meaning; using the word "rainbow" to describe your plan (especially in light of some other issues I will point out) is not wise if you do

no have an intentional pro-homosexual slant. Of course, if the homosexual lobby were not in the business of destroying the freedoms of association, speech and belief of all those who disagree with it, the Plan's title would not be an issue.

Second, statements like "no matter how diverse or opposing..." sound quite egalitarian, but it has been our experience that these words are often used as a door to give the homosexual lobby a platform -- to the demise of those who disagree with it.

The plan says "'Successful' does not simply imply economic prosperity, but rather includes social values. The 'RAINBOW' must provide for this parallel value system as well". This type of wording is routine nationwide for pro-homosexual policies, whether they be in business or public sector. A recent poll reported in the Colorado Springs GAZETTE Telegraph showed that the majority of citizens do not feel like the government should be in the business of messing with "social values." This statement all by itself is enough to make discerning citizens of Manitou Springs suspicious.

The "...heightened awareness of the 'community as a whole' concept by all factions", once again causes me to believe that the plan is about to impose a standard or belief which it knows faces opposition, and it is trying to let the wind out of the opposition sails right now. The word "diversity" is with out a doubt a buzzword for homosexuality.

The purpose statement uses a lot of words but actually says very little about the actual plan. This "wordiness minus content" is a dead ringer that something in the works is being hidden from the general public. Any business person will tell you that honest purpose statements will be short and to the point, not fluffy and ambiguous.

The Political Scene

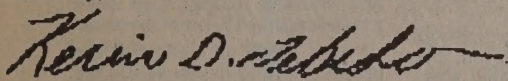
KEVIN TEBEDO...from page 33

I realize your position is that the plan has not yet been developed. However, most folks know that a plan such as this will not develop out of thin air or through a plethora of community meetings. Those behind the inception of this "Rainbow Vision" already have a plan in mind. You know this and I know this. All that is left is getting the public, by hook or by crook, to buy it.

Please understand, it is not my intention to question the Planning Commission's motives. You may or may not be aware of these things. However, if it is not your intention to give off these signals and use these code words, I strongly suggest you reevaluate the purpose statement. Also, it would be taken as a show of trust if your commission would publish the names and organizations behind developing the plan.

If you would like to respond to this letter, I will ensure our supporters get it for their information. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Tebedo
Executive Director

Kevin, Kevin, Kevin. Calm down. Take a Midol. If you think every faggot in the country is out to get you, you're going to worry yourself into a stroke before you hit age 50!

Then again...go get 'em, girl! ▼

Tebedo Angers More Than Gay Community

by Greg Varner

After we received a copy of Kevin Tebedo's letter to the Manitou Springs city planner, CFV made copies available to anyone who wanted one. Apparently several people did, and the reaction of people around town has been immediate and strong. The *Gazette Telegraph* has not printed a single letter on its editorial page that is supportive of Tebedo's witch hunt. Following is a sampling of some of the letters. It's nice to know that CFV's official opinions are disgusting to more people than only members of the lesbian and gay community.

Aug 18: I regret voting for Amendment 2 and

The Political Scene

feel partly responsible for the current inquisition. The quotes by the Family Values spokesman describing homosexuals as our moral inferiors by definition was chilling...clearly the "war" on gays

is not only attacking equal rights but also including an unacceptable civilian casualty rate. This instance of persecution an intimidation of a person and group based on choice of verbiage can in no way be interpreted as an attempt to block "special rights." This "war" has suddenly become too expensive and appears to be based on prejudice fueled by fear and loathing.

Aug 18: Mr. Tebedo, you have taken the expression bigotry and turned it into a career.

Aug 18: The religious right has become a threat to the freedoms of our country because they want to force their religious beliefs on every single one of us through legislation. They won't be content until we are all Christians. I resent the implication that the Christian philosophy is the only way and that the rest of us are evil heathens.

Aug 19: It is scary to me that Tebedo has somehow come into a position of public view. I first heard about his "fears" about the use of the word "rainbow" on the radio. Has he no comprehension that [children] will be the ones hurt by all this?

Aug 19: Tebedo's willingness to make second class citizens out of those who are different...signals the start of what could be a rough period in our community.

Aug 19: I will continue to use the "R" word for any purpose I desire; and if that causes Tebedo, or "concerned citizens" in Manitou Springs, or anyone else, to think I have some sort of "hidden agenda," that is definitely their problem.

Aug 19: We don't need CFV's help in managing the affairs of our community. We don't need the divisiveness and destruction that CFV's so-called values have already wrought on Colorado Springs and other communities where they have peddled their venom. ▼

And From Grand Rapids, MI...

by Dr. Paul Kutsche

There may be hope for Colorado Springs some time in the future. Grand Rapids, in the 1930s and 1940s when I was growing up there, was a self righteous bigoted Dutch- and Christian-Reformed city in which any pleasure at all was sinful, and most plea-

sures were against the law. Now, last May 10, only the second time it was proposed to city council, a gay rights ordinance passed. As you see, Grand Rapids still has its bigots, who are trying to overturn the ordinance. Other cities in Michigan with similar ordinances are listed in the last paragraph. Except for Ann Arbor, all are blue collar factory towns.

The Political Scene

Gay-rights opponents fall short in city petition drive

► *Caring Citizens for Grand Rapids considers recall drive.*

By Kelley Root
The Grand Rapids Press 6-10-94

They ended up 188 signatures down, but Grand Rapids gay rights opponents say they're not out.

Organizers of a petition drive aimed at forcing Grand Rapids' "gender orientation" ordinance to a public vote vowed Thursday to harness citizen anger in other ways after falling just short of their goal.

The group, Caring Citizens for Grand Rapids, is considering recall drives against some city commis-

■ **Grand Rapids gays and lesbians prepare for their seventh annual pride celebration Saturday. C2.**

sioners or a general anti-gay rights initiative similar to the one enacted in Colorado.

"There's a strong feeling that people really felt betrayed, that they were not represented well," said Steve Ripley, the group's co-founder. "Many told us, 'we called our city commissioners, and they just didn't seem to hear us.'"

The group needed 13,917 valid signatures — or 12 percent of the city's registered voters — by Thursday to put the issue on the ballot, City Clerk Sandra Wright said.

They gathered 13,729 names,

some of which would likely have been disqualified during verification, she said.

Phil Duran, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Network of Western Michigan, said he was "very relieved" by the failed referendum and would be disappointed if the group continued to press the issue.

"We'd hoped all along that the people of Grand Rapids would see through the hysteria and fear-mongering and not want to get involved in that," Duran said. "I think the majority of people are just tired of the issue and want to move on to other things."

Duran said the Network was prepared to challenge the validity of the petitions, which he called "fatally flawed, vague and mislead-

ing." The petitions did not include the text of the ordinance in question, making it difficult for voters to know what they were signing, he said.

After two years of controversy, commissioners last month voted 4-

3 to add the phrase "gender orientation" to the city's civil rights code, which prohibits discrimination in areas such as housing, employment and public accommodations.



See GRAND RAPIDS...page 36

GRAND RAPIDS...from page 35

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CONTINUED FROM C1

The change was inserted into the ordinance that created the city's Community Relations Commission, an advisory body responsible for hearing and investigating civil rights complaints.

Leaders of the petition drive offered several theories on why their efforts fell short, but they agreed time ran out too quickly. The group had 30 days from the date the ordinance was adopted to collect signatures.

It took a while to get the grassroots effort off the ground, but once word spread, momentum "built fast," Ripley said. Group members also criticized the city for allowing only one month for the referendum, saying they will likely seek to change that rule.

"If we'd had two more days, we'd have thousands more signatures," Ripley said.

The Rev. John Williams, co-leader of the group, said he was disappointed that more pastors and their congregations didn't become involved in gathering signatures. A rare exception was Oakhill Presbyterian Church, 1930 Leonard St. E., which opened its doors for a 15-minute rally and petition collection site, he said.

"This is a tremendous moral is-

sue, and I'm wondering why (more clergy) didn't step forward," Williams said.

Jeff Carlson, pastor at Oakhill, said he believes many churches are reluctant to become associated with gay issues, even though their members believe homosexuality is morally wrong.

"A lot of churches in the city are afraid of being labeled as... unloving and critical," Carlson said. "I had some gay people come to my church and say, 'Why do you hate us?'"

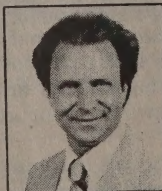
"The concern of clergy like myself is where will this be in five years, in 10 years? We feel there needs to be some kind of boundaries set."

The Caring Citizens group bought radio and newspaper advertising during the last few days of their drive, which went literally to the last minute Thursday.

Signs stapled to light poles on Leonard Street NE directed motorists to a petition-signing rally at Oakhill Presbyterian, where signatures were being collected until 25 minutes before the 5 p.m. deadline.

The vote made Grand Rapids the seventh city in Michigan to adopt ordinances protecting gays. The others are Detroit, Birmingham, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Flint and Saginaw.

Information for *Community Vision* may be sent directly to the editor: 1822 Mid Road, CSC, 80906; or phoned: 633-6383; or faxed: 632-1490. You may also call the Helpline, or send articles to the community center address.



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Ground Zero, Rev. Mel White, Issue Appeal for Help

by Franklin Whitworth

The Political Scene

In the August (1994) issue of *Ground Zero News* it was announced that Dr. Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate*, who had just completed the Fast for Understanding in front of the Focus on the Family campus, and Ground Zero, would initiate a program to introduce materials and information to the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Postal Service relevant to the SPECIAL non-profit status of Focus on the Family.

Ground Zero joins Dr. White in his belief that Dr. James Dobson, director of Focus on the Family, Focus on the Family itself, and their subsidiary groups, have assumed the lead in attacking gays and lesbians and in supporting laws that would exclude gays and lesbians from civil rights ordinances, and fighting laws that would include gays and lesbians in the same civil rights ordinances.

Inasmuch as it is the belief of Dr. White and of Ground Zero that Focus on the Family has entered strongly into the world of lobbying and political activity to accomplish the elimination of gays and lesbians from viable participation in government and society, it is proposed that Focus on the Family is in violation of the provisions of its IRS §501(c)(3) status and is in violation of its SPECIAL non-profit bulk rate status with the United States Postal Service.

This opinion is even more forcefully supported with indications that Focus on the Family and its subsidiary front organizations are, or have been, deeply involved in action to support anti-abortion legislation and political activity, to affect legislative action in the fields of education, family leave, health care, environment, the exclusion of gays in the military, in matters involving pro-family leave legislation and criminal law, among many others. It is further indicated that they have objectives in the areas of the Equal Rights Amendment and of English Only laws, as well as immigration laws and laws that support multiculturalism.

Ground Zero is collecting materials to support all of these allegations, including printed materials, voice and video recordings, testimony, etc., attributable to Focus on the Family, Dr. James Dobson, their various

local organizations around the nation and the Family Research Council. Many gays and lesbians, and those friendly to gay and lesbian rights, have been collecting these materials and/or are on the mailing

lists of Focus on the Family and related organizations. Ground Zero seeks copies of relevant materials, directly attributable to Dr. Dobson and these organizations and stories and articles that may have appeared in other publications or that are extracted from other television and radio commentaries and reports.

If you are out there and have been wondering if you would ever have use for these materials you've so studiously collected, the answer is yes, and the time is now. Individuals are called on to send the materials and testimonies in NOW to the address given below. Those involved in groups are asked to pass this request on to the membership in these groups through newsletters and direct mailing, and those involved in computer networks are asked to send this request out with the widest spread possible.

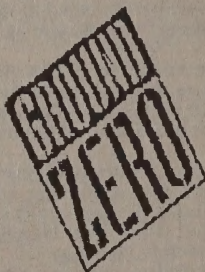
Don't delay. Send your salient materials to Ground Zero, P.O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, today. It is time to confront the purveyors of lies, myths and stereotyping head on. It is time to seek to deny them the "special" privileges that they are abusing. And it is time to stop them from receiving tax relief and tax support to distribute information that is political in nature and has political objectives, and for creating the national mood of "cultural warfare" that is causing the death of so many of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

If you also want to support this activity financially, you are encouraged to send donations made to Ground Zero at the above address. ▼

Gay Workers Earn Less Than Non-Gay People In Same Jobs

by Douglas Hattaway,
Human Rights Campaign Fund

WASHINGTON -- An independent study at the University of Maryland at College Park on the impact of anti-gay job discrimination has found that gay men and lesbians earn less than their non-gay counterparts with similar education, training and occupations. The findings refute the stereotype of gay people



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as an "affluent elite" unworthy of equal rights under the law. Federal civil rights laws do not protect

Americans from being fired, refused work, paid less or otherwise treated unfairly in the job market solely because of their sexual orientation.

The study, "Economic Evidence of Sexual Orientation Discrimination," marks the first scientific economic research conducted on the problem of job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The study found that gay men earned 11 to 27 percent less than non-gay counterparts with similar age, education, occupation, marital status and residence. Lesbians earned 5 to 14 percent less. The study will appear in an upcoming edition of the peer-reviewed journal *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, published at Cornell University.

"Far from having some mysterious advantage in the labor market, gay workers face discrimination that actually hits them where it hurts -- in their paychecks," said School of Public Affairs Professor Lee Badgett, who studied data from the General Social Survey, a national random sample of the US population collected by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Badgett's study applied research methods developed in the study of race and sex discrimination to the area of sexual orientation.

No federal law forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which is currently before Congress, would forbid such discrimination in employment practices. Opponents of the law, testifying before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, cited data from marketing surveys to paint gay people as an "affluent elite" that do not deserve legal protection from discrimination.

"The stereotype of gay prosperity is based on marketing surveys of gay magazine readers and people attending gay events. Those marketing surveys are biased toward people with higher incomes," Dr. Badgett said. "Representative data and statistical techniques reveal an economically diverse lesbian and gay community with people who are poor as well as rich, with most falling in

the middle. The real economic difference between gay and straight Americans is the daily struggle of lesbians and gay men against the psychological and economic effects of discrimination." ▼

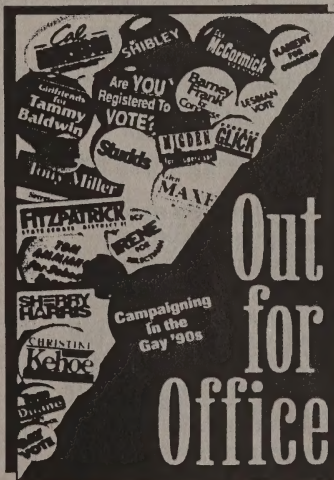
FOR CONFIDENTIAL HIV TESTING, PLEASE CONTACT:

El Paso County Health Dept
578-3148

Pueblo County Health Dept
544-8376

Valley Wide Health Services
Call the one closest to you

Southern Colorado AIDS Project
578-9092



READ, RUN, and WIN!

The only book to address the unique challenge of running for office as openly gay, *Out for Office* links candidates with the people, information and resources they need to run winning campaigns. Includes a chronology of gay and lesbian candidacies and state-by-state

listings of openly gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials, gay-friendly campaign professionals and gay/lesbian

Out for Office is available in bookstores for \$12.95. You may also contact the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund at 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 707, Washington, DC 20005 or (202) 842-8679 to order a copy.

New Visa Card Helps Who YOU Choose

by Greg Varner

People's Bank of Connecticut has announced the Uncommon Clout Visa card, specially developed for members of the lesbian and gay community. There are two points of interest to all of us.

First, every time you use the card, a donation of \$.10 will be made by People's National Bank to a non-profit group selected by you. This might not seem like much, but if People's National achieves their goal of issuing 250,000 cards this year, they predict the donations will reach \$1,000,000. Cardholders receive a ballot annually, on which they mark their choice of groups as recipients of donations generated by their card usage.

Some of these groups are national in scope, such as the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Lambda Youth Network, Dyke TV, Dignity USA and P-FLAG. Others are local and equally deserving of donations (at this time the PPGCLCC is not on the ballot).

The second item of interest is the cardholders newsletter, *Buycotting*, which will help you spend your dollars with gay friendly companies. The newsletter keeps you up to date on corporate policies, from domestic partner benefits to lesbian and gay employee groups and HIV related issues. The newsletter will also show you how donations are adding up, and precisely how much money is being distributed to each non-profit group.

Uncommon Clout Visa card also offers no annual fee, a 9.9% annual percentage rate for the first six months, free "domestic partner" cards, and a 25-day interest free grace period (meaning no service charge if you pay your bill in full every month).

If you're interested in applying for this card, call 1-800-GAY-CLOUT (1-800-429-2568) Monday-Friday during regular business hours, eastern time. If you're going to carry a Visa card, you might as well have one that helps the community! ▼

Day Care Brings Together the Children of Lesbians, Gay Men and Heterosexuals

by James Ip

XTRA, Toronto

GayNet News Service

Martin Bourgeois has a non-traditional family. It's no surprise, then, that he chose a non-traditional

General Interest

day care centre for his three-year-old daughter Sophie.

As a gay man who fathered Sophie with a lesbian friend, a day care that welcomed alternative families was the most important

factor in Bourgeois's decision to enrol his daughter at the Campus Community Co-op Day Care Centre.

"It's a matter of being in an environment that respects out family," says the 31-year-old dentist, who alternates weekly with Sophie's mother in providing care. "Our children should not suffer because of the way we decide to parent."

Campus Community Co-op cares for about 50 children aged three months to six years. Half the staff are either gay or lesbian, says Rob Parsons, one of the centre's coordinators.

"I don't think there's another centre in Toronto that's like this one," he says, adding that unlike most day cares, it also employs men.

Parsons says the co-op serves some five gay or lesbian families. As part of the application process, parents learn about the centre's philosophy of challenging homophobic, sexist and racist attitudes. "Parents have plenty of opportunity to ask themselves if this is what they want for their children," Parsons

Are you Bisexual, Gay or Lesbian in a Heterosexual Relationship?

What are the possibilities?

Call for information about an
Ongoing Group
Couple and Individual Sessions
(first session free)

Call Doug Norden
685-1032

says.

Of course, at such an early age, children don't receive lectures on social issues. But Parsons says that when topics come up, staff talk frankly and openly about issues. "I'm not dictating to them," he says, "but we don't hide that fact that we [gay men and lesbians] are here. It's part of our curriculum to tell kids that it's okay."

For example, when there is a "family" theme for activities, the children are taught that not everyone has a mommy and a daddy. This, Parsons explains, makes the children of gay parents feel accepted and not singled out.

Straight parents who have enrolled their children at Campus Community Co-op have no difficulties with the arrangement.

Marisa Freire has sent her daughter Nascha to the Co-op for the past five years. "A family can be many different things," says the 44-year-old administrative assistant, who has been raising Nascha by herself. "I consider ourselves a family."

Freire says allowing her daughter to be with different kinds of people will only benefit her. "I was really happy that my child was exposed to that sort of thing... We have to recognize gays and lesbians exist. Why not embrace it and say this is normal?"

Besides the positive atmosphere, gay parent Bourgeois also likes the fact that parents must be available to help in the care-giving by working at the centre. He also gives top marks to its child-centred philosophy and the workers who communicate well with their charges. ▼

GayNet News Digest

HBO Begins Work on Hollywood's 'Closet'

HOLLYWOOD (July 30 GayNet) — HBO has started work on "The Celluloid Closet," a feature-length television documentary of Vito Russo's book on Hollywood's portrayal of gays and lesbians in motion pictures. The documentary is expected to premiere late next year and will be produced and directed by Oscar-winning Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman ("Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt"). According to HBO, the major Hollywood studios are all cooperating in the production of the documentary by providing clips from the more than 100 films repre-

sented in "The Celluloid Closet." Proceeds from the non-profit project will benefit the motion picture industry's HIV/AIDS awareness organization Hollywood Supports.

Gay Rights Battle Brews in Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine (July 31 GayNet) — Activists expect the Concerned Maine Families to file petition signatures sometime in August to put an anti-gay ballot initiative before the voters next year. CMF announced at a press conference in late July that it had collected enough signatures and would be turning them in for authentication soon. Although Equal Protection Maine, which is fighting against the initiative move, says it will challenge the validity of the signatures, the organization says it will need \$2 million to fight the measure if it goes on the ballot. The measure would restrict civil rights protections in the state to "race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status" and would void any state or local civil rights legislation outside those classes.

Seattle Adopts Domestic Partners Measure

SEATTLE (Aug. 1 GayNet) — The Seattle City Council has unanimously approved a domestic partners registration ordinance. The measure will take effect a month after it is signed by Mayor Norm Rice, who is expected to approve the measure.

New Idaho Anti-Gay Leader Has Drug Arrest Record

BOISE, Idaho (Aug. 3 GayNet) — According to reports in the Idaho Statesman, Bill Proctor, who has taken over the day-to-day operations of the anti-gay Idaho Citizens Alliance, served 16 months in jail on drug charges after police found 2 pounds of cocaine, a large quantity of marijuana and some \$32,000 in cash at his home in Boise in 1981. Proctor told the newspaper that he had learned from his "mistakes of 13 years ago." Proctor said, "I'm working extremely hard now to preserve good traditional family values and a wholesome environment for the children of Idaho to grow up in." John Slack, ICA communications director, said Proctor "told us up front about his past. Bill has the highest moral character of anyone I know. Bill served his time. He paid his debt to society."

Far Right Launches Long Distance Phone Service

PHILADELPHIA (Aug. 3 GayNet) — Some 1,200 religious right groups have joined to promote

Continued on following page

LifeLine, the country's first long distance service "built on biblical values and centered around the lord Jesus Christ." LifeLine will donate 10% of its billings to far-right groups battling abortion rights, gay rights, and pornography. By the way, under strict biblical principles, people who don't pay their bills (including presumably their phone bills) can be stoned to death.

N.C. School Board Defies Helms

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (Aug. 4 GayNet) — Only days after the U.S. Senate approved an amendment offered by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) prohibiting school districts that offer gay-positive materials or counseling from receiving federal education funds, a school board in his own back yard defiantly adopted a policy doing exactly that. The Chapel Hill school trustees unanimously gave the thumbs up to a policy that would create "safe schools" where everyone is respected regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, political persuasion or religious affiliation. Chapel Hill trustee Mary Bushnell said of the new policy, "This plan grew out of a need to have students be more respectful and have a greater understanding of each other regardless of their diversity. Here we have to do what is right and hope the Congress of the United States will do the same."

GayNet News Digest

Sex Symbols: The Marketing of Gay Pride

The creator of the rainbow flag squares off with the triangle

by Andrew Vail
XTRA, Toronto
GayNet News Service

It's been 25 years since Stonewall. Considered to be the seminal point of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement, that moment in time reshaped our community and its focus by providing a platform on which to celebrate our lives and demand equal rights.

Pride Day is the day we take to the streets to celebrate our similarity, our diversity and our unity. It's a time to wear T-shirts, pins, rings, and a time to wave flags, banners and placards -- the two most identifiable of which are the pink triangle and the rainbow flag.

Most people know the origin of the pink triangle. Used to identify homosexuals in the concentration camps of the Third Reich, the symbol was again uncovered in the early '70s as part of the German gay activist movement. In 1975, the Toronto-based Pink Triangle Press was formed. It was the first group in North America to adopt a symbol that, 20 years later, has evolved to be the most powerful visual image representing our community.

So why isn't the triangle enough?

Competing with the pink triangle is the attention-grabbing rainbow flag.

Created in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco designer and gay rights activist, the flag -- styled after the seven chakras -- quickly began to proliferate in the community with its intent to symbolize the diversity, unity and colour within the gay and lesbian lifestyle. But doesn't the triangle do just that?

Baker feels there is a need for a flag, one that's created and owned by us. "The pink triangle," says Baker, "has a sinister stigmata due of the camps. It's a symbol of the holocaust which connects us to the past.

"I'm not trying to lessen its importance, however, the rainbow flag comes from the '70s, an incredible time of gay empowerment -- the times of Harvey Milk. It was time that we had our own symbol rather than one forced onto us by the Nazis. The rainbow flag expresses joy, the exact antithesis of the triangle's history."

This year, Baker is assembling the largest rainbow flag in history for the Stonewall 25 Interna-





A Day-Long Retreat for Lesbian Couples to Celebrate and Renew Their Relationships

This relationship will be different. You made that promise to yourself and to your lover. Then something starts to shift. Time spent together isn't fun like it used to be. You argue more and make love less. You want to make it work, but how?

How do you strengthen and renew all that's powerful, passionate, and uniquely affirming about your relationship? How do you get beyond past hurts and present angers to that place of mutual respect and ongoing trust?

Linda Sutton and Maureen Stevens offer you and your lover a day-long retreat for relationship renewal. They will share with you effective tools and techniques for refreshing and maintaining your love.

Daily practice for Linda's and Maureen's 13-year relationship is grounded in psychology, spirituality, and humor. Issues to be explored using this proven approach:

- What matters in love?
- What is a daily practice of love?
- What can we expect to change in ourselves?
In our lovers?
- How do we create and maintain the love,
the relationship we really want?

When: Saturday, September 10, 1994
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$140/couple (lunch included)

Where: Location to be announced

To Register:

Call Linda by Sept. 1, 1994 at 632-0465
(\$50 non-refundable deposit)

RAINBOW FLAG...from page 42

tional March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People in New York City. The flag, when completed, will measure one-mile long by 30- feet wide and is expected to be carried by 10,000 people. The project called Raise the Rainbow is also expected to raise \$500,000 for AIDS charities. To date it has raised more than \$100,000. The question is then: Can these two symbols co-exist without one casting a shadow over the other, diminishing their significance by turning them into just another jewel-encrusted lapel pin?

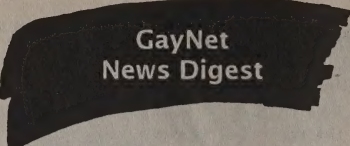
"They can," contends Ed Jackson, co-editor of *Flaunting It! A Decade of Gay Journalism From the Body Politic* and the former director of education at the AIDS Committee of Toronto. "De-politicized commercialization of the pink triangle is less likely to happen." And with the rainbow being used in a more general context in the community, Jackson says, "we can keep using the pink triangle for more political issues."

Gilbert agrees. "The use of the pink triangle for ACT UP is very appropriate because it's using a symbol of political significance as a parallel symbol to represent the holocaust of the '90s. AIDS."

But, in spite of all the symbolism, one wonders if Gilbert is reaping all the profits from royalties? Let's face it. The fine-tuned wheels of the marketing machine have brought the rainbow design onto everything from flags to T-shirts, from rings to coffee mugs, and the list goes on and on.... Someone has to be raking it in. Wrong.

There are no royalties. The fact that the flag is public domain, something Baker has fought long and hard for, means it does not need to be licensed to be reproduced. Baker is more interested in the flag being accessible to all lesbians and gay men. After all, says Baker, "it has to do with the spectrum of community -- black or white, man or woman and all the colours of sex, and the different ways in which we love each other. The more it is seen, the more it represents support for and awareness of our community."

The rainbow flag is quickly becoming the symbol that will represent us as we move into the next century. Do we have a responsibility to protect its integrity? Must we educate everyone on what it symbolizes? Should we allow it to turn into just another accessory? According to Baker, "A flag must transcend the personalities behind it and symbolize the community it represents."



GayNet News Digest

Raise the Rainbow. US\$50. To register by phone, call 1-800-NYC-1994. ▼

NAMBLA Expelled from Rights Group

The International Lesbian and Gay Association Bars Pedophile Groups

by Dayne Ogilvie

XTRA, Toronto

GayNet News Service

"We are an expression of unity, but also of diversity -- and diversity is something we want to celebrate," said co-secretary-general Rebeca Sevilla as she welcomed delegates to the opening plenary of the 16th World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). With more than 300 delegates (30 percent of them lesbians) from 50 countries, the conference, held in New York from Jun 24 to Jul 3, broke all attendance records. But another record, an extremely contentious one, was also being broken.

For the first time in its history, ILGA's secretariat committee had moved to expel member groups: The North American Man/Boy Love Association [NAMBLA]; Project Truth/Free Will; and Vereniging Martijn (all described as pedophile groups).

As debate erupted during the closed Jun 29 plenary, long-standing friction between NAMBLA and other ILGA members erupted. (The conflict had come to a head after ILGA was granted United Nations consultative status last July. In October, the anti-gay US periodical *Lambda Report*, producers of the video *The Gay Agenda*, alerted the US media that NAMBLA is an ILGA member. And the US Mission to the UN has now threatened to seek the revocation of that status unless ILGA revokes the membership of NAMBLA and any other pedophile group.) Prior to the vote, Harold Kooden, a member from New York who initiated ILGA's United Nations project five years ago, asked delegates to vote solely on the issue of the place of pedophile groups within ILGA, not ILGA's UN status. Regardless, the link was made repeatedly.

Lisa Power, a former ILGA secretary-general, described the early ILGA as "a ghetto solidarity group, meeting with one another once a year! but ILGA is changing. We are now becoming a human rights movement and we are now a more effective organiza-

tion."

In urging members to support the expulsions, she said: "This is not a good day or a happy day for any of us, but we either go back into the ghetto or forward into the real world."

Delegates cheered and hooted when the vote -- 214 for expulsion, 30 opposed, 10 abstentions -- was announced. It was well in excess of the 80 percent super majority required to expel the groups.

Outside, in a swarm of reporters, delegates and cameras, skirmishes broke out between NAMBLA supporters and opponents. A delegate who had spoken during the conference against the expulsions argued that women, too, can be pedophiles, and that pedophilia is about love, not child abuse. The two women she was arguing with hurled books and papers at her and walked away.

A delegate from New York, pleased with the expulsions, argued loudly that pedophiles were hardly the ideal group to defend the rights of children and was struck on the head by a man who supported NAMBLA (later, NAMBLA members denied knowing who the man was).

ILGA co-secretary general Rebeca Sevilla is certain, however, that ILGA can now make greater

progress in Latin America, where she says membership of pedophile groups had proved a major obstacle to lesbian and gay rights work. Most delegates from established groups in Western and Northern Europe, and emerging groups in Latin America, Asia and Africa, shared her belief that ILGA's international rights work for lesbian and gay men could only be strengthened by the decision.

But others disagreed. In the following plenary, the BVH, a national German gay and lesbian organization, announced that it was resigning from ILGA because of the expulsion. At press time, it is the only resignation that has been officially registered. Representatives of David and Jonathan, a new member group from France, said it will reconsider its membership. Lesbian activists with ACT UP Americas who had volunteered for a panel on Latin American Women and AIDS, boycotted the panel saying their protest was not in support of NAMBLA, but against the manner in which ILGA had dealt with the issue. And Ken Popert, president and executive director of Pink Triangle Press, says the decision to expel NAMBLA was "without apparent foundation in principle, squalid and cruel in its execution.

"Under the circumstances, I now deeply regret



Friday Niters **BINGO**

Every Friday 7:00 pm
\$1500 in Prizes

Friday Night, 7:00 PM
21st Street Bingo
1102 South 21st Street

Fun, Entertainment, Prizes
Hosted by the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church

our life-saving \$15,000 grant to ILGA and I have no doubt that our board of directors will shortly reconsider our commitment to an organization that has proved itself so utterly spineless and politically unsophisticated." ▼

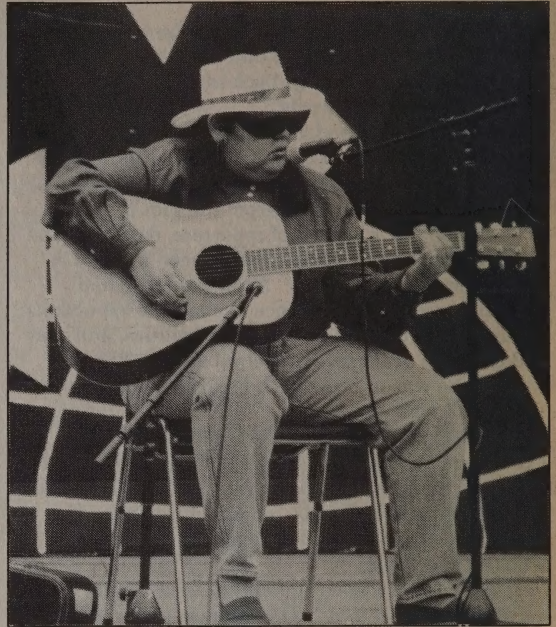
New Home for GIC Located

by GIC Staff

After a diligent search the board of the Gender Identity Center has approved a one year lease on a private office located at 7951 West Mississippi in Lakewood. Please make note of the new telephone number: (303) 763-5097.

The property is located on Mississippi a short distance west of Wadsworth Blvd. in an office building. The Center itself will have a private street entrance. It also has lighted off street parking, and is wheel chair accessible. There is a reception/office area, a meeting room of about the same size as the old Center, a half bath, an area for changing and for clothing exchange. Privacy is excellent. It is air conditioned, and served by two bus lines.

Please call any time for more information. ▼



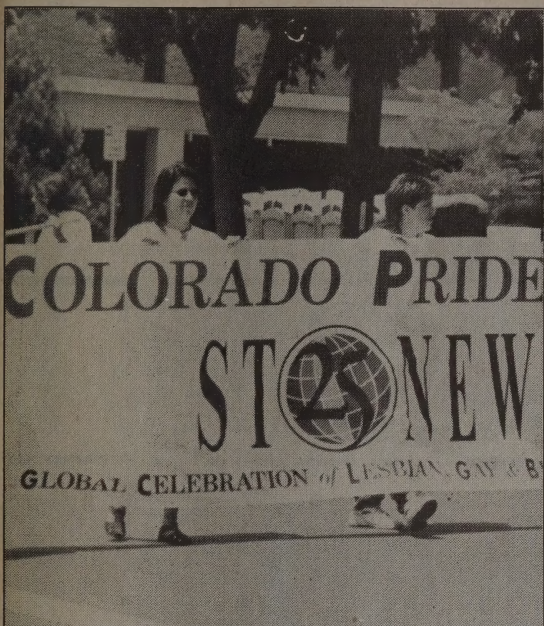
Housekeeper Wanted

Are You Looking For A Change?

Room and board in my large Skyway home
in exchange for parttime child care,
light housekeeping and errands.

Must have reliable car.
Ideal situation for college student.
Available immediately.

Send letter of interest and resume to
PPGLCC
Attn: Housekeeper
P.O. Box 607
Colorado Springs, CO 80901



Group Meetings September, 1994

B-GALA, CC. Bisexual-Gay And Lesbian Alliance, Colorado College. No report.

B-GALA, UCCS. Bisexual-Gay And Lesbian Alliance, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. No report.

CGRA. Colorado Gay Rodeo Association. Regular meetings: 1st Monday (September 5) membership meeting, 7:30 PM. 3rd Monday (September 19) board meeting, 7:00 pm. Both at Hide & Seek. 4th Annual Pikes Peak United Rodeo, September 23-25, Spencer Penrose Stadium, \$10/day. Rodeo Information: 719-

576-CGRA.

Dignity. Regular meetings: Mass on 1st and 3rd Saturdays (September 3 & 17), 7:00 pm, Sacred Heart Church, 21st and W Colorado. Call 635-5773 for details.

FLO. For Ladies Only. Meets every other Saturday. Leave a message at the Helpline to be called back with details.

GLAA. Gay & Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Regular meetings: Mondays, Fridays, 8:00 pm. Call Helpline for locations.

GLASG. Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Support Group. Regular meetings: Wednesdays, 6:00 pm. Call Helpline for locations and other details.

The Group. No report.

La Guia. Hotline: (719) 473-6771.

LBGF. Lesbian-Bisexual-Gay Families. Regular meetings: 2nd Sunday (September 11, 10:30 AM, call Carol or Shellie for location: 570-1599.

Monarch House. There are boxes located in Colorado Springs businesses for food donations, as well as donations of other household goods, to help PLWAs, and to help stock the food bank for Monarch House.

MCC. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church. Regular meetings: Sunday church, 5:00 PM; choir rehearsal Sundays, 3:30 PM. Bingo Fridays at 7:00 PM, Saturdays at noon.

NP. New Phazes. Call 634-0236 for time and location of monthly collating party.

P-FLAG. Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays. Regular meetings: 2nd Wednesday. 6:00 PM, Newcomers meeting; 7:00 PM, Program.

PPCC. Pikes Peak Community College. No report.

PPDC. Pikes Peak Diversity Chorus. Rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:00 PM, music room of the West Side Intergenerational Learning Center. Call the Helpline for details.

PPGLCC. Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Board meeting Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm at the PPGLCC office, 121 East Pikes Peak, Suite 468. Annual Meeting (and Dance) to elect board members, Saturday, September 10, Germania Club, 710 East Harrison Road, free admission to members; \$5 for non-members (includes 1-year membership and all benefits, this night only).

S-CAP. Southern Colorado AIDS Project. Regular meetings: Board, 2nd Tuesday (September 13), 5:30 PM at the S-CAP office, 514 South Tejon.

UCRSE. United Court of the Rising Sun Empire. Preparations for October 15 Coronation are in high gear. Call 685-5509 for more information. ▼

COMMUNITY VISION Events Calendar

September 1994

LEGEND

CGRA - Colorado Gay Rodeo Ass'n

B-GALA - Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian

Alliance: Colorado College

CP - Citizens Project

Dignity - 635-5773

FLO - For Ladies Only

GLAA - Gay & Lesbian Alcoholics

Anonymous

GLASG - Gay & Lesbian Adolescent

Support Group

The Group - The Group: Gay

Educators Pol Luck Social

LBGF - Les-Bi-Gay Families

LG - La Guia

MCC - Metropolitan Community

Church

NP - New Places

OSG - Open Support Group

PA2 - Pueblo After 2

P-FLAG - Parents & Friends of

Lesbians & Gays

PPDC - Pikes Peak Diversity Chorus

PPJP - Pikes Peak Justice & Peace

S-CAP - Southern Colorado AIDS

Project (578-9092)

TGSG - Transgender Support Group

UCRSE - United Court of the

Rising Sun Empire

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:30 - CMI	2 7:00 - MCC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	3 7:00 - Dignity
4 3:30 - MCC Choir 5:00 - MCC PM - UCRSE's Kickoff Show	5 7:00 - CC Bingo 7:30 - CGRA M'Ship 8:00 - GLAA	6	7 6:00 - GLASG 7:00 - PPDC	8 7:30 - CMI	9 7:00 - MCC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	10 8:00A-Hiway Cleanup 10:00A - Abaton's Open House 8:00 - PPGLCC's Meeting & Dance
11 3:30 - MCC Choir 5:00 - MCC	12 7:00 - CC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	13 5:30 - S-CAP Board 7:00 - PPGLCC	14 5:30 - P-FLAG 6:00 - GLASG 7:00 - PPDC	15 7:30 - CMI	16 7:00 - MCC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	17 7:00 - Dignity
18 3:30 - MCC Choir 5:00 - MCC	19 7:00 - CC Bingo 7:00 - CGRA Board 8:00 - GLAA	20 5:30 - UCRSE Board	21 6:00 - GLASG 7:00 - PPDC NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL QUILT	22 7:30 - CMI NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL QUILT	23 7:00 - MCC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL QUILT PP UNITED RODEO	24 All Day-PIKES PEAK UNITED RODEO NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL QUILT
25 3:30 - MCC Choir 5:00 - MCC PIKES PEAK UNITED RODEO	26 7:00 - CC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	27	28 6:00 - GLASG 7:00 - PPDC	29 7:30 - CMI	30 7:00 - MCC Bingo 8:00 - GLAA	

August 1994

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